



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 15, 2018

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FOCUS: Abstract Heart
March 17 - April 29, 2018
Juror: Katie Schmidt Feder
Director, Garrison Art Center
Opening Reception: Saturday, March 24, 4-6pm

(Woodstock, NY) - Introduced in 2017, each show in the FOCUS series features the work of ten artists in a theme-based exhibition. Selections are curated by a different juror for each exhibition with each artist represented by multiple examples of their work in service to the particular show's theme.

FOCUS: Abstract Heart juried by Katie Schmidt Feder, asks artists to consider how passion, emotion, and deeply-held beliefs can be conveyed through an abstract vocabulary. The ten artists selected for *Abstract Heart* are showing work that speaks from the soul through a personal visual language. Art enthusiasts who attend the exhibition will be offered an engaging range of expressive vocabularies to translate into their own unique responses.

In her statement, juror Katie Schmidt Feder writes "I had a visceral response to the work of the ten artists chosen for this exhibition. Each offered a strong and diverse point of view which speaks to one or many facets of emotion and human experience. It could very well be that the thoughts or emotions behind the creation of these works are not at all the same thoughts or emotions which entered my mind upon experiencing the work - but that is the power, wonder and gift of art."

The artists participating are: Paulette Esrig, Nils Hill, Henry Klimowicz, Jerry Michalak, Samantha Palmeri, Tracy Phillips, Stephen Rose, Barbara Smith, Kat Stoutenborough, and jd weiss.

FOCUS: Abstract Heart Gallery Talk Friday March 23, 5pm

Exhibition juror, Katie Schimdt Feder and WAAM Galley Director Carl Van Brunt will discuss the current exhibition *FOCUS: Abstract Heart*. Followed by an informal audience Q&A. Admission: Free.

Also on view at WAAM from March 17 - April 29 will be a Solo Show of sculptures by Richard Scherr, *Agnes Hart (1912-1979): A Journey Towards Abstraction* curated by Janice La Motta (on view through June 10) in the Phoebe and Belmont Towbin Wing, a Small Works show, and in the YES (Youth Exhibition Space): March Bailey Middle School *Find Your Word Project* (through April 1) and a show of works by students of Woodstock Elementary (April 7 - 29).

Woodstock Artists Association & Museum

Founded in 1919, the Woodstock Artists Association & Museum (WAAM) is a not-for-profit membership organization featuring an historic Permanent Collection of regional art, contemporary art galleries, a dynamic Education Program and an Archives & Library of materials associated with artists of the Woodstock region.

General Information

The Woodstock Artists Association & Museum (WAAM) is located at 28 Tinker Street, Woodstock, NY. Gallery hours: Wednesdays and Thursdays, noon-5; Fridays and Saturdays, noon-6; and Sundays noon-5. WAAM is closed Mondays and Tuesdays and major holidays. WAAM is closed during the month of January and reopens on Saturday, February 3, 2018. For general information please call: 845.679.2940 or visit our website at: woodstockart.org.

Image Captions:

Samantha Palmeri, *Meadow*, 2018, oil on canvas, 36 x 36 inches
Kat Stoutenborough, *undone*, fabric, metal, light fixture, 39 x 82 inches
Tracy Phillips, *all dressed up*, watercolor on paper, 7 x 10 inches
Henry Klimowicz, *Liken Lichen #3*, 2016, cardboard, 24x24 inches
jd weiss, *water dance*, archival pigment print on panel, 20x20 inches